(ख) यदि हां, तो उनके नाम क्या-क्या हैं ;

(ग) क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा खनिजों के उत्खनन के लिये कोई योजना बनाई गई है ; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

खान मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री बलराम सिंह यादव) : (क) जी, हां ।

(ख) पाए गए खनिज बाक्साइट, बाक्साइट, डेन्टोनाइट, चीनी मिट्टी, फायरक्ले, जिप्सम, चूनापत्थर, ओकर, क्वार्टर्ज, सिलिकासैंड और लिग्नाइट हैं ।

(ग) और (घ) खनिजों के खनन के लिए प्रौद्योगिकी आकर्षित करने तथा निवेश प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए सरकार ने राष्ट्रीय खनिज नीति 1993 घोषित की है और खान और खनिज (विनियमन और विकास) अधिनियम, 1957 में संशोधन किये हैं । खनन क्षेत्र के विकास को सुगम बनाने के लिए नियमों और पद्धतियों को और सरल बनाया गया है ।

Accident in Zinc-mine of Rajpura Dariba in Rajasthan

4174. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of Mines be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 598 given in the Rajya Sabha on 9th December, 1994 and state:

(a) the details of the accident indicating the cause and the number of miners killed and injured and the compensation paid to the victims or their families; and

(b) whether an inquiry has since been made into the causes of the accident, if so, how far the accident was attributable to lack of safety systems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Thirteen workers died when a cemented fill plug & barricade construction to retain fill (classified tailings) in the stope (voids created as a result of mining operations) failed resulting into an onrush of fill material alongwith water into the workings below 212 meter level of the Rajpura Dariba Mines on 28th August, 1994.

The bereaved families have been granted compensation as follows:

(i) Rs. 10,000 paid as immediate financial assistance to families of deceased miners.

(ii) Rs. 5,000/- for funeral expenses paid for every deceased miner.

(iii) Compensation payable as per Workmen's Compensation Act have been deposited with Workmen's Compensation Commissioner.

(iv) In addition to (iii) above, Adhoc Compensaton has also been paid at the following rate:

(1) Rs. 50,000 for each deceased.

(2) Rs. 54,000/- for deceased employee of HZL under Death Benefit Scheme as per long-term Agreement with Hindustan Zinc Workers' Federation.

(3) Rs. 30,000/- for each deceased employee of Bharat Gold Mines Limited (in lieu of Death Benefit Scheme).

(v) One dependent of each employee offered employment or pension to the widow of deceased in lieu thereof at the rate of Rs 3000 per month.

(b) An enquiry into the causes of the accident was made by Directorate General of Mines Safety under Ministry of Labour. According to the Report of Enquiry, the accident occured due to failure in monitoring of:—

(i) quality and strength of the fill (plug)

(ii) hydrostatic head of drainage water in relation to the designed capacity of the fill.

Production in mini steel plants

4175. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the installed capacity and the annual steel production of mini steel plants in the country during the last three years capacity-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether production of steel by the mini-steel plants is well below their capacity;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Details of State-wise capacity and production of mini steel plants (Electric Arc Furnace units) are given in the Annexure. (*See* Appendix 173, annexure No. 84).

(b) and (c) Production of steel from the Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) units has been below their installed capacity. The performance of this sector has been adversely affected due to various factors such as increase in input costs like power tariffs, steel melting scrap and also technological obsolescence.

(d) Government has reduced the import duty on steel melting scrap from 12.5 per cent to 5% advalorem. In the Budget of 1995-96, import duty on sponge iron has been reduced from 30% to 20 per cent which is expected to reduce the input cost of coast based EAF units. In addition, State Governmetns were advised to consider supplying uninterrupted power to these units at concessional rates.

In addition, Government has set up a "Core Group" to assist units which are interested in drawing up revival strategies.

Import of coin blanks from Italy

4176. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to import coin blanks from Italy against the new tender opened on 3.10.94;

(b) if so, the amount of foreign exchange out flow due to importing coin blanks per year;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Salem Steel Plant is able to fulfil Government's demand of coin blanks;

(d) if so, the reason of importing coin blanks; and

(e) if not, the installed capacity of Salem Steel Plant per year and Government's demand of coin blanks per year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) The total anticipated foreign exchange component involved is Italian Lira 12,577,650,000. However, during the financial year 1994-95 no expenditure has been incurred.

(c) and (d) The total requirement of coin blanks is met through various sources, which include own production of coin blanks by the India Government Mints as well as procurement from external sources which inter-alia include supplies made by Salem Steel Plant.